

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W

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P 071215Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3178

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2455

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: FY76 PARTIAL IVP NOMINEE (ABEYASINGHE T.B.H.)

REF: STATE 184301

DR T.B.H. ABEYASINGHE, PRESENTLY PROFESSOR OF MODERN HISTORY
AND HEAD OF DEPT, UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA'S COLOMBO
CAMPUS.

ABEYASINGHE'S INTERNATIONAL TICKET REQUIRES HE BE PICKED UP
FROM NEW YORK. INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION MUST BE PROVIDED
SAN FRANCISCO/NEW YORK. FROM AUG 22, ABEYASINGHE CAN BE
CONTACTED AT FAIRMONT HOTEL, NOB HILL, SAN FRANCISCO, WHERE
HE WILL STAY. HOTEL IS ALSO HEADQUARTERS FOR CONFERENCE.

A) BIO DATA:

BOB: MAY 4, 1929

PLACE OF BIRTH: GIRIULLA, SRI LANKA

SEX: MALE MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED

CHILDREN: ONE BOY AGED 15 AND TWO GIRLS AGED 13 & 3

PERMANENT ADDRESS: 222/1, OLD KOTTAWA ROAD, NUGEGODA

EMERGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS: MRS WIMALA ABEYASEKERA, 222/1
OLD KOTTAWA ROAD, NUGEGODA.

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OTHER PERTINENT DATA: QUIET AND UNASSUMING DISPOSITION. VERY SCHOLARLY. NO DIETARY RESTRICTIONS.

EDUCATION: BA (SPECIAL) FROM UNIV OF CEYLON; PHD FROM UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

HONORS & MEMBERSHIPS: SOMETIME MEMBER OF HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION; MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR PUBLICATION OF UNESCO "COURIER" IN SINHALA; AWARDED SAHITYA (LITERARY) PRIZE FOR A HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHED IN SINHALA IN 1970.

PUBLICATIONS: PORTUGUESE RULE IN CEYLON 1494-1612 (COLOMBO 1966); PORTUGUESE REGIMENTS IN SRI LANKA (COLOMBO 1974); PORTUGUESE & CEYLON 1597-1658 (COLOMBO 1970); PORTUGUESE IN KOTTE 1494-1612 (COLOMBO 1966); SEVERAL ARTICLES.

PREVIOUS TRAVEL ABROAD: UK 1961-63 - POST GRADUATE WORK;

PORTUGAL: 1962 (5 MONTHS) RESEARCH; GOA, INDIA: 1963 (2 MONTHS) RESEARCH; AUSTRALIA: 1973 (2 WEEKS) TO ATTEND CONFERENCE.

KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH: EXCELLENT

OTHER LANGUAGES: VERY FLUENT IN SINHALESE. READING KNOWLEDGE OF PORTUGUESE.

B) PROGRAM INFO:

1. VISITORS SUGGESTIONS: PROFESSOR ABEYASINGHE HAS SUGGESTED THAT SINCE THE CONFERENCE FINISHES MORNING OF AUG 29 HE COMMENCE HIS PROGRAM THAT AFTERNOON. HE CAN BE CONTACTED AT HOTEL BY EITHER PROGRAMMING AGENCY IN WASHINGTON OR RECEPTION CENTER IN SAN FRANCISCO. HE HOPES THAT VISITS BE ARRANGED WITH PROF LUCIAN PYE, FY72 STAG AT MIT AND HOWARD WIGGINS OF COLUMBIA, IF POSSIBLE. HE IS PARTICULARLY KEEN ON VISITING UNIVERSITIES WITH STRONG DEPTS IN SOUTH ASIAN AND SCAMERICAN HISTORY AND HAS SUGGESTED UNIV OF TEXAS, MIT AND COLUMBIA. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE GRAND CANYON.

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IN NEW YORK, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AND BOSTON WHERE HE WISHES TO SPEND TWO DAYS EACH, HE DOES NOT WISH ANY ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED FOR HIM, AS HE WILL STAY WITH FRIENDS.

2. POST'S SUGGESTIONS:

POST HOPES THAT DR ABEYASINGHE WILL HAVE, WHERE POSSIBLE, EXPOSURE TO HISTORIANS CAPABLE OF ADVISING HIM IN BASIC

AMERICAN STUDIES CURRICULUM,

)9 -,&3)3 (2 DAYS) - VISIT UCLA'S DEPT OF HISTORY AND
MEET WITH FACULTY. VISIT DISNEYLAND.

GRAND CANYON (1 DAY) - VISIT THE CANYON.

TEXAS (2 DAYS) - VISIT UNIV OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN AND MEET
WITH DEPT OF HISTORY FACULTY.

MICHIGAN (2 DAYS) - VISIT UNIV OF MICHIGAN'S SOUTH ASIAN
STUDIES DEPT AT ANN ARBOR AND MEET WITH FACULTY.

WASHDC (3 DAYS) VISIT THE SMITHSONIAN'S HISTORY MUSEUM,
THE ARCHIVES, THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, THE CAPITOL AND
MOUNT VERNON, ETC.

BOSTON (2 DAYS) - SPEND SOME TIME WITH LUCIAN PYE, CHAIRMAN,
OF MIT'S POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPT. DR PYE VISITED SRI
LANKA AT END JULY 1971 AS FY72 STAG. VISIT HARVARD'S CFIA.
GO ON FREEDOM TRAIL. VISIT MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS.

NEW YORK (2 DAYS) - VISIT UN BUILDING. MEET WITH HOWARD
WRIGGINS, DIRECTOR, SOUTH ASIAN INSTITUTE OF COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY, WHO LIVED IN SRI LANKA FOR MANY YEARS.

NAMECHECK INITIATED.
VAN HOLLEN

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